

And They Lived by Paperback-Avenger

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Summary: In 2019, what are the lives of the characters we know and love? (Contains characters and ideas from Beyond Hawkins)

And They Lived

Before I make a sequel to Beyond Hawkins, I wanted to create an after fic. Enjoy!

UPSTATE NEW YORK

The camera crew patiently waited inside of the home. They were going to interview Mrs. Faye in just a few minutes, but the room had to be ready. They set up a space in the living room where two chairs sat. Mrs. Faye was in the red chair, trying to stay composed. Ethan sat in one of the blue chairs, waiting for his father to be done getting ready. He knew his father liked to take his time, but they were wasting daylight. Ethan looked up to his half-brother, Michael, who sat behind the main camera.

"Where is he?" Ethan asked.

"Hell if I know," Michael sighed, "but he needs to be ready soon if we wanna get the interview done. And sage this place. The footage we got really freaked me out- Dad!"

Michael's call was met with silence. Michael called out again, and this time heard an old man fumbling. He and Ethan smirked to each other as they saw their dad complaining and grumbling about not being able to take his time. Murray knew that they were on a tight schedule, but he hated when his stepson shouted for him to hurry up. The boys were trying to keep a straight face as they watched the bald old man sit in the seat next to Ethan. He looked over to his son who could not avert his eyes.

"Can't you let an old man be in peace?" he asked.

"After the entire episode is done," Ethan looked to Michael, "Ready?"

"We go on in five, four, three, two,-" Michael flipped the camera on and the last interview began.

"Welcome back to Ghosts Upside Down," Murray said to the camera, "To kick off our fifth season, we decided to travel locally. Three miles

outside of my city lives Mrs. Emily Faye. She claimed that there are ghosts that haunt her house. The video from last night proves that there is something lurking in her home."

"Mrs. Faye," Ethan looked to the woman, " Is there anything else you would like to say before we start to relieve the house of spirits?"

"When-when the spirits started to come around," she said softly, " My cat, Summer, was getting angry. The lights were flickering one night and he was freaking out. The next thing I knew, he- he went missing. He hasn't been back in two weeks. I'm afraid he's been drawn away by the spirits and he might be gone forever."

Murray stared at the woman, trying to process her words. The missing cat and flickering lights were all too familiar. He thought about the creatures he saw and what it did to his town. Hawkins was a mess because of the Demogorgons and the Russians. There was only one good Russian in that facility, and he was gone. Murray could think of so many evil creatures that lurked in his home. If there was a creature in the town... Ethan and Michael noticed their father's reaction to her words. They knew his story and what kind of monsters lurked in their old hometown.

"Let's get ready to sage the house," Ethan decided.

Michael turned the camera off. He offered to help his dad get the sage sticks and the matches needed to perform the act. Murray nodded and thanked his stepson for his help. Ethan helped bring out the bowls and opened all of the windows. Murray tried to forget about what Mrs. Faye said as he laid out two of the sticks out on a nearby table with a red cloth down on it. The bowl and matches were perfectly aligned. Michael set up the camera and looked to his father.

"Are you ready, Dad?" he asked Murray.

"Yeah," he nodded, " Yeah I am."

Michael turned the camera on and looked to his stepdad. Murray told his audience about the pain and suffering the house contained. That they had to start saging the house right away. Ethan and Murray lit up their sage sticks and went around the house. The smell overtook

the rooms as they walked around. While Ethan recited his 'be gone' speech, Murray's mind went back to the cat. If Summer faced the same fate as Mews, Murray worried for the safety of the town. The poor children and cats of the town would soon be-

"Summer!" Mrs Faye called as they finished saging the last of the house.

Outside was the fat orange cat, who hobbled up to the front steps. Mrs Faye excitedly ran down the steps and to her front porch. Ethan finished up the dialogue, stating how the cat was scared of the lurking spirits, while Murray just stared outside. The older woman was praising her little lost cat and crying. Of course the creature wouldn't be lurking here. None of them would, now that they were dead. He had to think of something else.

"Boys?" he went on, " I'll be right back, okay? I need to make a phone call."

Ethan and Michael nodded as they went back to discussing the footage. They knew who Murray went to call. The older man went out through the backdoor and stood in the yard. He pulled out his phone and flipped through his contacts. He hit a number and waited for the man to answer. It took a few rings before he got a groggy "...Hello?"

"Hey Jim," he said, " How are you doing?"

"I was sleeping," he replied with a yawn, " What do you want?"

"In my recent investigation, a woman's cat went missing. The only thing I could think of was the Demogorgon. The cat's name was Summer, you know, like my granddaughter. It just made me think of everything we've been through and how the Demogorgon tried to take everything away from us. It just...it really made me think that we were gonna go through it all again."

"Murray," Hopper came through, " We won't have to go through that shit again. You and I both know that we ended things back here. We're safe now. We always will be."

"Always," Murray smiled, "Hey, thanks Hop."

"Anytime. Now, when's your next episode coming out?"

As they talked, Murray felt relaxed, knowing that everything was gonna be just fine.